



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 380

February Session, 2002

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE
USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE CASTING AND
COUNTING OF BALLOTS AND PROHIBITING THE USE OF PUNCH-
CARD VOTING MACHINES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of title 9 of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State
3 may authorize, as a demonstration project, the use of electronic
4 equipment for the casting and counting of ballots at elections in 2002 in
5 at least three towns, if sufficient numbers of electronic voting machines
6 can be acquired, provided (1) (A) the legislative body of any such town
7 or, in the case of a town in which the legislative body is a town
8 meeting, the board of selectmen, and (B) the registrars of the town
9 approve the use of such equipment, and (2) the Secretary of the State
10 prescribes specifications for (A) the security, testing, set-up, operation
11 and canvassing of the equipment, (B) the ballots used for the
12 equipment, and (C) the training of election officials in the use of the
13 equipment. No voting machine that records votes by means of holes
14 punched in designated voting response locations may be used at any
15 election under this section. The State Elections Enforcement
16 Commission may solicit and use volunteers to conduct an exit poll of
17 electors concerning their experience using the voting equipment.
18 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-236 of the general statutes,
19 the Secretary of the State may allow the volunteers to conduct such

20 poll within the radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
21 use as an entry to any polling place established in said section 9-236,
22 provided the volunteers maintain a minimum distance specified by the
23 Secretary. Not later than January 1, 2003, each town that uses such
24 equipment shall submit a report on such use to the Secretary of the
25 State. The report shall include the results of any exit poll regarding
26 elector use of the electronic equipment. Not later than February 1,
27 2003, the Secretary of the State shall submit a summary of such reports
28 and recommendations concerning the use of such equipment to the
29 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
30 of matters relating to elections, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
31 general statutes.

32 Sec. 2. Section 9-241 of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

34 Any person owning or holding an interest in any voting machine, as
35 defined in subsection (w) of section 9-1, may apply to the Secretary of
36 the State to examine such machine and report on its accuracy and
37 efficiency. The Secretary of the State shall examine the machine and
38 determine whether, in [his] the Secretary's opinion, the kind of
39 machine so examined meets the requirements of section 9-242 and can
40 be used at elections, primaries and referenda [under] held pursuant to
41 this title. If the Secretary of the State determines that the machine can
42 be so used, such machine may be adopted for such use. No machine
43 not so approved shall be so used. Each application shall be
44 accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars and the Secretary of the
45 State shall not [give his approval of] approve any machine until such
46 fee and the expenses incurred by [him] the Secretary in making the
47 examination have been paid by the person making such application.
48 Any voting machine company [which] that has had its voting machine
49 approved and [which] that subsequently alters such machine in any
50 way [,] shall provide the Secretary of the State with notice of such
51 alterations, including a description thereof and a statement of the
52 purpose of such alterations. If any such alterations appear to materially

53 affect the accuracy, appearance or efficiency of the machine, or modify
54 the machine so that it can no longer be used at elections, primaries or
55 referenda [under] held pursuant to this title, at the discretion of the
56 Secretary of the State, the company shall submit such alterations for
57 inspection and approval, at its own expense, before such altered
58 machines may be used. The Secretary of the State may adopt
59 regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 concerning
60 examination and approval of voting machines under this section. No
61 voting machine that records votes by means of holes punched in
62 designated voting response locations may be approved or used at any
63 election, primary or referendum held pursuant to this title.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*